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the wing and tail coverts. The female, longer than her mate in size, is also quite distinct in plumage. A marked reddish dye takes the place of lustrous black. On the head the color is warmer than on the body. The wings are shaded, in some individuals dusky.

Edoliisoma tenuirostris or *Campephaga jardinii* (Gould), the Slenderbilled Cuckoo-shrike, is an Australian bird but found also in New Guinea near Port Moresby. It is about a foot long, of a cloudy blue color, excepting on the side face where it becomes black, and on wings and tail which contain rather more black than blue. The outer tail feathers underneath terminate in white. The bill is black and anything but slender. Feet black, eyes brown.

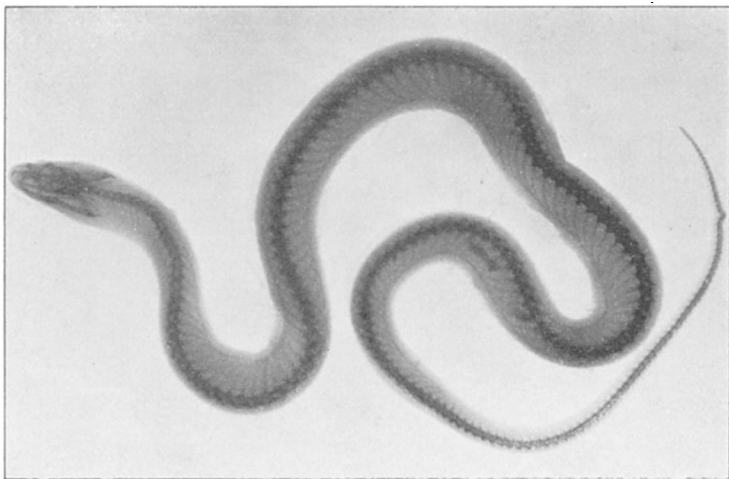
In 1882 the nest was found by Mr. C. C. L. Talbot in a Eucalyptus tree. It was composed of wiry grasses securely fastened together with cobwebs on the thin forked horizontal branch. The eggs laid in the small shallow depression were ovoid in shape and of a pale bluish gray ground dotted irregularly over with dark brown spots and lines.

(To be Continued.)

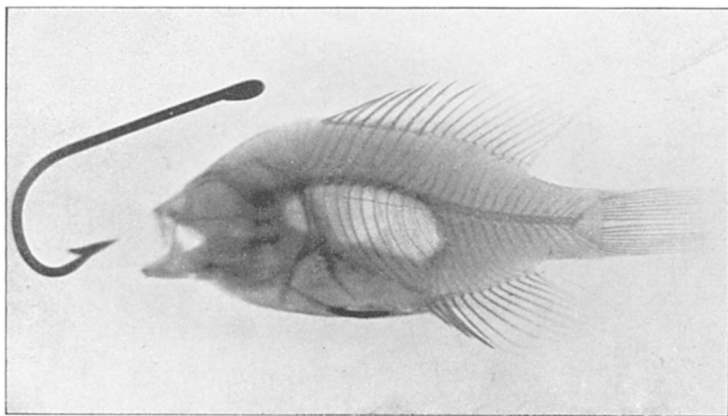
EDITOR'S TABLE.

—WE notice that the project of a National University to be established at Washington has been again brought up before Congress. Washington has many advantages as a location for a university, and the Methodists and Catholics have not been slow to take advantage of them. The Columbian University, a non-sectarian institution, is located there. That it devolves on the nation under any circumstances to establish a university there or anywhere else we fail to perceive. So long as institutions of this kind exist either by virtue of State support or private munificence, there is no necessity for the intervention of the Government in this part of the educational field, but there are strong reasons why it should not do so. The financial basis of all institutions supported by congressional appropriations is always precarious. The subsidies are liberal while they last, but changes in the fiscal policy of the Government produce fluctuations in the revenue, and expenditures are varied accordingly. Then the faculty of such an institution would be under bonds to please the congressional majority,

PLATE V.



1



2

1. *Natrix compressicauda*. 2. *Lepomis* sp.

or the revenues might be reduced or suspended. The teachings on certain subjects might be interfered with or controlled by the appointing power, and the appointments to positions would probably become political perquisites. Nothing more disastrous to the proper conduct of a university can be imagined, and an institution established under such conditions would soon cease to be a credit to the nation. We hope that the project will not prevail, not only for these reasons but for another. This is, that the Government has in connection with its departments various commissions and bureaus, which occupy themselves with original scientific research in connection with the various economic objects of their care. These should be continued and expanded if possible, and not, as is sometimes the case, weakened by insufficient appropriations. If the Government at Washington will support this work it will be doing more for education than any university can do, and will continue to add to its credit among nations in the future as it has done in the past.

—THE X-rays of Roentgen will prove of some utility to some branches of biological research by disclosing the characters of mineral substances enclosed within the walls of animals and plants. A good many characters of the skeleton, for instance, may be detected in specimens which cannot be spared for maceration, and other applications will occur to both botanists and zoologists. We present, as an illustration, a sciagraph of a species of sunfish (*Lepomis*), made by Messrs Leeds and Stokes, of Queen & Co., of Philadelphia.

—ANOTHER excellent journal, this time a French one, has been led astray by attaching too much importance to the romances of the American newspaper reporter. We refer to the story published some months ago by a San Francisco journal that a physician of that city had succeeded in grafting some snakes together by their tails. The fictitious character of the narrative is demonstrated by the statement that the said physician selected snakes in which the vertebral column does not extend to the end of the tail. If the editor of the journal had referred the question to the professors of the Museum of Paris, he would have learned that snakes of this kind exist only in the imagination of the author of the canard.

—WE published a statement some months ago that Mr. L. O. Howard of U. S. Dept. of Agriculture had discovered that the application of oil to water where mosquitoes breed, destroys both the eggs and the larvæ of those pestilent insects. We are reminded by an exchange that the alleged discovery was made by Mrs. Eugene Aaron in Phila-

delphia. We were probably indiscreet in referring to Prof. Howard's observations as involving more than a modicum of "discovery." On examination we find that the knowledge of this mode of destroying mosquitoes antedates not only his observations, but also those of Mrs. Aaron. The information has, however, not been generally disseminated until recently.

—THE American Society of Naturalists, at its last meeting, adopted a resolution commending to the public the importance of Antarctic exploration. A committee of three was appointed to take measures looking towards sending an expedition to Antarctica in the near future. At about the same time England and Australia joined in supplying the funds necessary for such an exploration of the land lying south of Tasmania within the Antarctic circle. The natural object of an American expedition is, of course, the exploration of Graham's Land, which lies due south of Patagonia. For the advance of knowledge of the physics of the globe, explorations of the polar regions are of the first importance; and the results to the history of its biology in past ages, will be scarcely less important. America has done her full share of Arctic exploration; and in the person of Commodore Wilkes made a beginning in Antarctic work. It is now fully time for us to resume this work, and it is to be hoped that the means of sending the expedition may be speedily obtained.

—THE Huxley Memorial Committee have raised the considerable sum of £1532, and are considering the uses to which it may be put. It has been resolved to erect a statue of Huxley in the British Museum, and to endow the award of a medal for meritorious work in biology. It is now desired that the amount may be increased for the purpose of creating another endowment. Should sufficient subscriptions be obtained in America, it might become appropriate that this new endowment should have its seat in this country. The scientific men of America hold in high esteem the biological work of Huxley, and there are many reasons why a foundation in his memory would be grateful to Americans.